

# **EDF Renewables Dorenell Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund**

**Year 6**

**1<sup>st</sup> April 2024 – 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025**



## Highlights



Dorenell Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund is now in its fifth year of grant-making activity since its launch in the summer of 2020, with six years of donations from EDF Renewables available to support local groups and projects.

This report covers activity from the 1<sup>st</sup> of April 2024 to the 31<sup>st</sup> of March 2025, where three rounds of grant-making resulted in 22 awards made to 10 organisations, including five organisations receiving grants for the first time.

Awards include activities in three of the four fund communities – Dufftown, Glenlivet and Glenrinnnes – along with several projects which will benefit the wider fund area, from the Cross Area sub-fund.

**The fund has reached several significant milestones – 100 awards, worth over £2 million have so far been made in the first five years of operation.**

General grant-making awards in 2024-25 ranged from smaller-scale projects such as equipment for local groups like scouts and the pipe band, to larger capital projects to improve a range of community facilities such as Glenrinnnes Community Centre, Keith and Dufftown Railway Association premises and the creation of a memorial garden in the Braes of Glenlivet. A wide range of activities was also supported including support for Speyside Swimming Club to help increase children's participation to funding for a short film to celebrate Glenlivet's iconic Tea in the Park event.

There was continued funding for a further three years to support Speyside Youth and their services for local young people and also to continue key staff posts – the Community Development Officer and the Heritage Ranger, both making an impact in the communities of Glenlivet and Inveravon.

## **Making a Difference**

The following case studies illustrate the impact that long term funding and commitment to key staff roles can have to benefit the wider community – from youth workers to community development posts and show how the availability of community funds has built capacity and potential in the community of Glenrines.

## Case Study: Support for Community Development – Long-term funding for Community Development staff

In 2024, an award of £97,000 was made to Tomintoul & Glenlivet Development Trust to fund the already established Glenlivet and Inveravon Community Development Officer (DO) post for a further three years. The role was created in 2022 and provides a useful and much-valued service to a range of community groups in the area, delivering priorities identified in the Dorenell Community Plan update as well as through local consultation work.



Claire – Glenlivet Development Officer

The DO helps to organise key local events such as Tea in the Park and provides support to volunteers for several large-scale capital projects with the potential to lever in funds from other sources to the community.

The DO has supported the Braes Hall committee to carry out a design and feasibility study to renovate the hall. The committee has been helped by the DO to improve governance and is now registered as a SCIO (Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation) which will enable them to take forward improvement plans with further DO support, focussing on energy efficiency improvements. Glenlivet Hall committee has similarly been helped to carry out design and feasibility work and the DO will support them through the next phase of renovating the hall and improving energy efficiency. The Braes community has been helped with a project to create a memorial garden.

There is also a potentially very significant project developing at Inveravon Church which is currently at an early stage. The DO has helped Glenlivet & Inveravon Community Association with a Stage One grant application to the Scottish Land Fund to purchase the building for the community.

If successful, a separate organisation may need to be established to take the project forward and support from the DO will be required to provide additional capacity and expertise for local volunteers to make this happen.



**Inveravon Church**

The DO has been instrumental in developing and enhancing the communication channels in the community, this includes a new website for the Glenlivet Hall and community Facebook pages which are used to share information on events, projects and other important local issues. Recruiting and retaining volunteers is an issue in many areas, and the role of DOs is generally recognised as strengthening and enhancing essential local effort.

The Glenlivet and Inveravon DO has consistently demonstrated the benefits this can bring, as seen by support from local groups for the continuation of the role, and the scale and ambition of projects that volunteers have the confidence to bring forward.



**Community feedback for project support includes:**

*“Having someone available who can guide us through the [project planning and fundraising] process has been invaluable not only for our project, but I’m sure, to many others in the community.”*

*“As with all projects under her remit, the DO takes a very hands-on approach to projects, working alongside community volunteers with enthusiasm and the required persistence to see projects through to the finish.”*

**And for supporting Tea in the Park:**

*“Without the DO input in organising this post-COVID, the wonderful celebration of everything that is good in Glenlivet would not have taken place. The DO is thoroughly professional in everything she does and is a huge asset to the community.”*

**Oliver Giles Operations Manager Tomintoul and Glenlivet Development Trust said:**

*“The three-year funding agreement for the continuation of the Glenlivet and Inveravon Development Officer represents a huge boost to Tomintoul and Glenlivet Development Trust and the Glenlivet and Inveravon community. It enables the Trust to provide long term, strategic support for the vision of the local community which includes asset improvement and acquisition. We're grateful to the communities of Glenlivet and Inveravon and Foundation Scotland for their continued confidence in TGDT to deliver this important function in our area.”*

The Dorenell fund supports a similar role in Dufftown, created and managed by Dufftown & District Community Association – the current postholder playing a key role in developing DDCA projects and networking and supporting the wider Dufftown community sector. The role is currently funded on a part-time basis for two years.

## Case Study: Opportunities for Young People - Long-term support for Speyside Youth

The Dorenell Fund has been supporting Dufftown-based youth work charity Speyside Youth since 2021. An initial three-year award was extended for a further three years in 2024 to demonstrate an ongoing commitment to the provision of opportunities for young people in the fund area – a recognised fund priority.

Speyside Youth services help young people to meet and mix with new people, learn group work and other skills such as running events, community involvement, training opportunities and participating as a Youth Committee member. As well as the regular Youth Café sessions which run on Tuesdays and Fridays from 6 pm and 9.30 pm for young people between school years P7 and S3, there is an activity programme which helps to develop confidence in young people and provides opportunities they may not otherwise be able to access. And of course, it is generally fun and sociable.

Speyside Youth also works with Speyside High School every year to help the feeder primary school pupils make a smooth transition to secondary education. This includes activity days with Outfit Moray, the annual Step Out At Speyside transition event, and the SHS Lunch Hub.

The team of youth workers who are employed to run the Youth Café enable young people to develop holistically, working with them to facilitate their personal, social and educational development, to enable them to develop their voice, influence and place in society and to reach their full potential. The organisation is youth-led so members vote and make suggestions for projects and activities via their eight-member youth committee who either volunteer or are assigned tasks and projects based on their strengths and interests.



**Speyside Youth Committee 2024**

Members and youth committee reps are encouraged to volunteer at local events to help them learn skills and support the wider community. SY staff also offer 1-1 support to young people and their families, which has become more of a focus recently due to the increase in mental health pressures. Long-term funder commitment allows the charity to operate strategically and develop as required.

**Elaine Clarke, the Chair of Speyside Youth, said:**

*“Challenges within Youthwork seem to be ever-changing and at a faster rate than before and within this climate, it seems vitally important to be strategic as a charity in responding to the needs of young people whilst upholding and caring for the wellbeing of the Youthwork team. As an initial response to this challenge, we have put into place additional, more supportive resources for Youth workers. This has included 3 relief Youth Workers being given permanent contracts to build a more consistent and secure team and to provide security for the Youth Workers. We have also sourced a trained counsellor to provide an external support and supervision service for the Youth Development worker to provide a much-needed sounding board.”*



An award of £67,000 over three years was made in 2024 which is around a third of the total project delivery costs. The main expense is staff salaries and there is also a cost of venue hire at Dufftown Community Centre and a budget for additional activities. The project is also supported by the William Grant Foundation, National Lottery and other charitable trusts.

**Feedback from the young people themselves demonstrates the importance of the service and the transformational impact it can deliver:**

*"I started SY at 11 as a punter, very shy, quiet, and usually stuck to a smaller group or if they weren't there, I would just chill by myself. Now I am more confident, much more sociable and developed a lot more skills through training within youth work. I never thought I'd get this far. I had lacked confidence for many years and don't think younger me would ever be able to comprehend how I became chair of the youth committee."*

*"I started at age 11 and was a punter for 3 years, later joining Youth Com for 3 years and gaining volunteer hours. Now I am back as a Young Volunteer at 19 years old. SY has been a big part of my life. As well as doing Youth Club I am doing my PDA in Youth Work. SY has been a place very close to me from starting. I have gained skills, qualifications, responsibility, and leadership which has come with me in most of my occupations, especially now which is a respite day centre for adults with Learning Disabilities and also a Youth Theatre company."*

Youth work services are severely limited, particularly in more rural areas, so Speyside Youth are an excellent resource for the community, benefitting around 45 teenagers each week and hundreds of young people every year.

## Case Study: Glenrinnes – building community capacity

All four Dorenell communities are unique with their own specific needs and circumstances. Glenrinnes is a scattered rural community, one of the least populated in the fund area. It stretches from Dufftown south to Glenlivet and has a landscape of rolling farmland, moor and forestry, dominated by the iconic Ben Rinnes. Glenrinnes Community Centre is the key community hub, which brings people together for a range of activities and has ambitious plans for future improvements.

Over the past few years, the GCC committee has evolved, and today's enthusiastic team of volunteers is dedicated to creating a vibrant, sustainable community hub - one that offers a variety of social and recreational activities while staying financially strong.



A lively calendar of regular events is now well established, including the popular weekly Coffee Morning, monthly Big Breakfast, Games Nights, and Crafting Meetings, along with larger seasonal celebrations.

### *Volunteers Bob, Rob and Helen at the end of their coffee morning shift*

The Coffee Morning has become a real highlight, recently drawing over 100 attendees and regularly welcoming around 80 each week. Glenrinnes residents (especially older members of the community) are thoroughly enjoying these welcoming gatherings.

Visitors from farther afield are also being drawn in by the warm, friendly atmosphere, where there's always space, time for a good chat, and of course, a delicious home-baked scone.

The group received eight funding awards over the past year, totalling £77,980. These grants reflect the renewed energy behind improving the hall and bringing people together. The funding supported a range of practical enhancements including picnic tables, loft insulation, LED lighting, catering equipment, an emergency generator, and a smart new boundary fence. One award is funding a feasibility study exploring ways to upgrade the hall for better energy efficiency and long-term sustainability. Another helped make the much-loved 'Memories Day' in September 2024 a great success, with marquee hire for a vibrant celebration of local heritage.



**Glenrinnes Hall**

To help ease the pressure on new committee members and allow them to focus on running and improving the facility, a three-year core cost grant was awarded in 2023. Thanks to the success of regular fundraisers like the monthly Big Breakfast, the hall is now proudly financially self-sufficient and no longer reliant on grants to cover its day-to-day running costs

**GCC Chair, Alister Laing said:**

*“Having access to Dornell funds that are specifically allocated to the Glenrinnes area has allowed the members of the Community Centre to bring people from the local area together at the regular events that we organise. In addition, the funding has allowed us to put only a low charge on the events which allows all types of people to attend without putting a financial strain on them. The biggest benefit is that the community are coming together and are not feeling lonely and have people to talk to which is very important in today's society.”*

The success of the local events, and the plans to improve the hall itself, are testing the capacity of the volunteers. They are planning to employ a community liaison officer to support these key activities and also address the needs of more vulnerable community members with support as required. Having seen the impact of similar roles in Glenlivet and in Dufftown, GCC is keen to maximise the opportunity and potential afforded by the benefit fund and create this new local role.

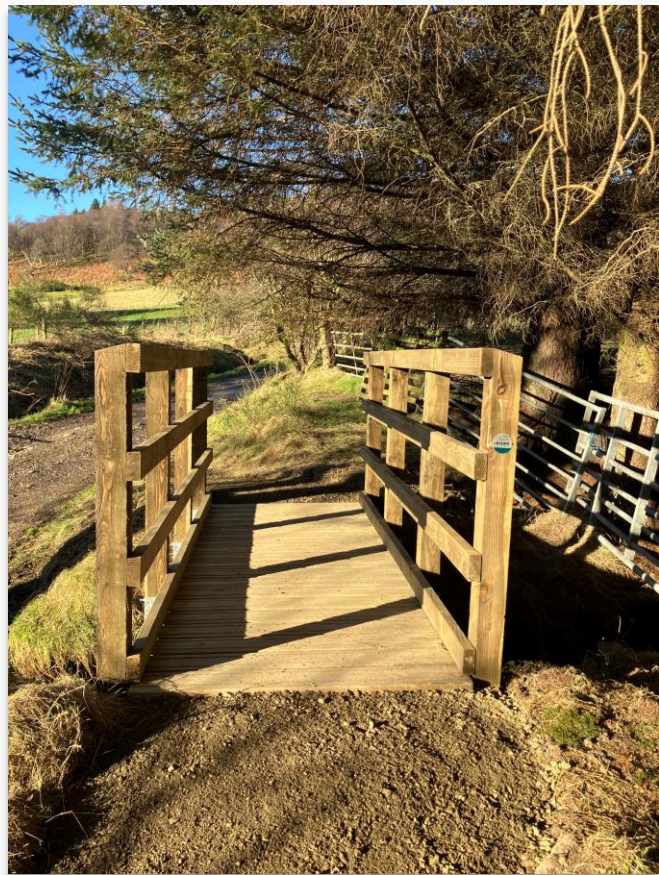


## Case study: Dorenell Footpath Project Update

The largest project funded to date was an award last year of £269,400 over two years towards the creation of a new footpath network for the Dorenell area. This was also the first project to be commissioned by the panel. Following considerable work behind the scenes, raising match funding, negotiating with landowners and other stakeholders and engaging contractors for the work, construction is now underway and the first stretch of greatly improved path connecting Dufftown to Aberlour is set to formally be opened in summer 2025.

The project is a great example of the Dorenell communities coming together to work on a shared goal, enlisting other relevant experts to support them. The project steering group includes representatives from Glenlivet Community Centre, Dufftown and District Community Association, Glenlivet and Inveravon Development Officer, EDF Dorenell Ranger team (based in the Cabrach), Crown Estate Scotland and the Moray Council Access Officer. Tomintoul & Glenlivet Development Trust are managing the contract to deliver this project on behalf of the steering group, with Outdoor Access Trust for Scotland appointed to deliver the practical aspects of the project.

Subsequent footpath links will connect Dufftown with Auchindoun and on to Bridgehaugh, connecting with trails to the Cabrach; and also connecting Dufftown to Glenrines with the final phase to connect Glenlivet.



*New footbridge on the Dufftown to Aberlour route*

## Fund Distribution

There were three rounds of grant-making, with application deadlines at the end of March, July and November. A total of 26 grant applications were received.

Four applications were rejected for various reasons – the most common issue being that the project could not demonstrate sufficient community benefit to residents of the fund area, either due to its location outwith the fund boundary or due to a lack of evidence of need or demand. One applicant who had been funded in the past was rejected as it was felt that the organisation's reserves were high and the group had significant opportunities to raise income from activity in the year ahead.

As 22 applications were successful in being awarded a grant, this gives a conversion rate from application to award of 85%.

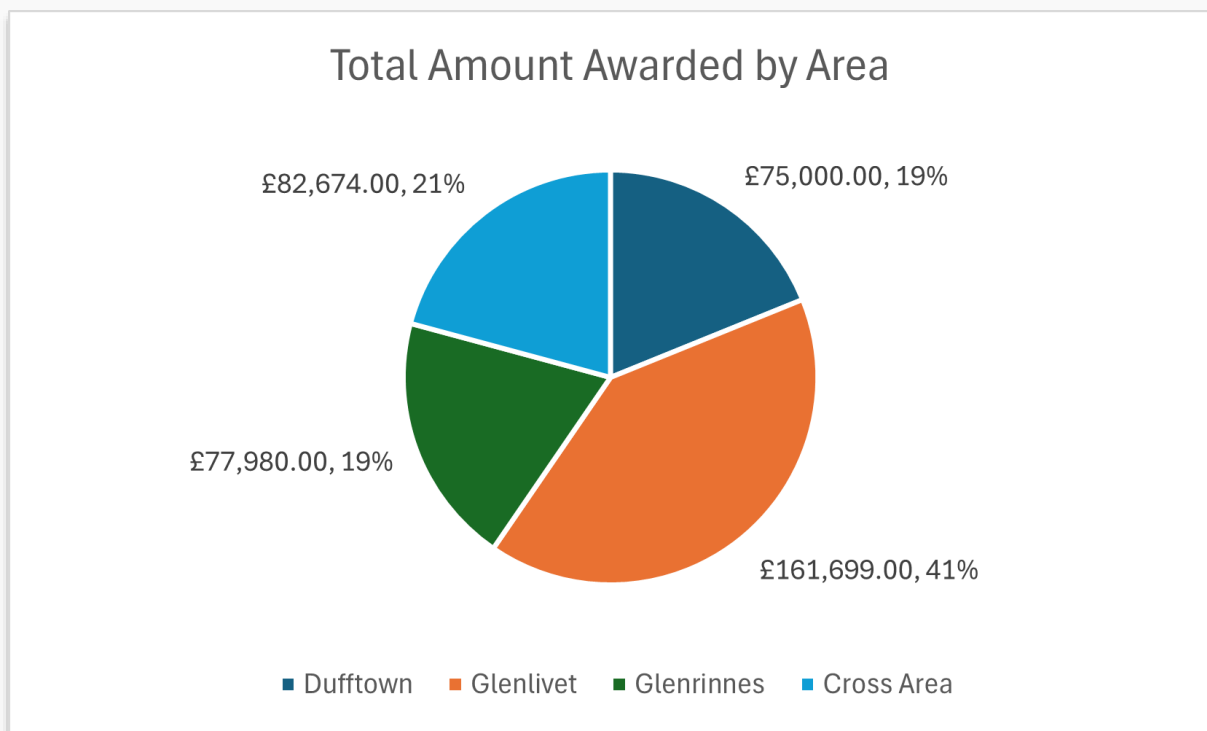
There was also a proposal put to the panel in February 2025 to establish a fuel payment scheme for Glenrinnies to provide small annual payments to residents to help with energy bills based on the general poor energy efficiency of the housing stock in the area (from EPC data) and the fact the community is not connected to the mains gas network. After some discussion, this proposal was rejected by the panel. Issues such as means testing vs universal support, fairness between communities and a general question of whether this was the best use of community benefit funds were all raised, along with counter points relating to the reality of rural disadvantage, fuel poverty, avoiding stigma, and supporting a local proposal which is popular with local residents.

Glenrinnies will look for other ways to support vulnerable local residents and the committee is currently planning to develop a staff role to provide additional community support for their area. There is also interest in all areas in creating support for individuals with education and training costs, which will be investigated further with Foundation Scotland's support in the coming year.

A total of £397,353 was awarded to support 22 projects, from a total of 10 organisations, giving an average award of £18,922. The smallest award made was £1,000 to support Together for Short Lives and the Butterfly Fund which provides small grants to bereaved families.

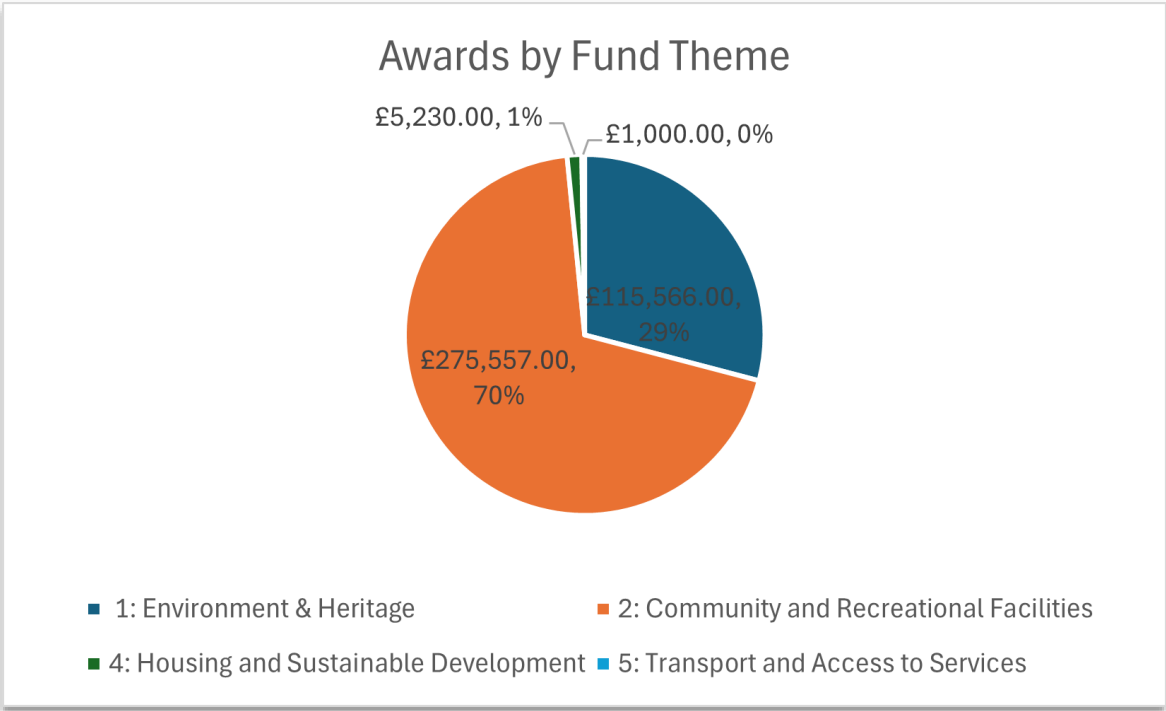
The largest award was £97,106, to fund the Community Development Officer for Glenlivet & Inveravon for a further three years to support local groups and develop community assets.

Awards were made for projects that will benefit three of the four communities served by the Fund, as well as for several projects that will provide benefit across all four communities. This was the first year when one area did not apply for or receive funding – the Cabrach. Various Dorenell-funded projects have been underway in that community however, including the second year of the Cabrach Lives 2 community heritage project, and a payment was also made for microgrant awards to Cabrach Community Association. The chart below shows the amount and percentage of funding awarded in each area. A total of 10 different organisations received awards, all of which were not-for-profit groups. Details of all awards are provided in the Awards Summary (page 17).



Awards were made for projects contributing to **four of the five themes** highlighted in the Dorenell Community Development Plan Updated Priorities 2024.

The chart below shows the proportion of funding awarded by theme, according to the primary theme addressed by each project. It is recognised however that many projects will deliver against more than one theme.





## Awards Summary

Applicant	Reference	Project Summary	Total Cost	Award
<b>Dufftown</b>				
Dufftown 2000 Ltd	FR-0087526	To contribute to renovation costs of a Whisky and Heritage Centre in Dufftown to showcase the local area, create volunteering opportunities and provide a focus for tourism.	£349,000.00	£30,000.00
Keith and Dufftown Railway Association	FR-0079537	To extend the engineering shed to increase capacity for volunteering and expand the scale of the operation to grow the heritage train service locally.	£46,680.00	£15,000.00
Mortlach Memorial Hall	FR-0083235	To contribute to phase one costs of refurbishing the hall to improve the facility for the benefit of all users.	£110,000	£30,000.00
<b>Glenlivet</b>				
Tomintoul & Glenlivet Development Trust	FR-0087394	To create a short film to celebrate and promote Tea in the Park which will help attract new volunteers and sustain the event in the future.	£5,000.00	£4,200.00
Tomintoul & Glenlivet Development Trust	FR-0083041	To support the creation of a community memorial garden in Braes of Glenlivet that will serve the local population and act as a place of remembrance.	£11,000.00	£11,000.00
Tomintoul & Glenlivet Development Trust	FR-0086186	To fund a Community Development Officer for three years to support local groups and develop community assets in Glenlivet and Inveravon.	£97,314.00	£97,106.00

Tomintoul & Glenlivet Development Trust	FR-0083198	To fund a Heritage Ranger for two years to promote the heritage and dark sky environment of Glenlivet and Inveravon to support local groups and boost quality, year-round tourism.	£54,392.56	£49,392.56
<b>Glenrinnnes</b>				
Glenrinnnes Community Centre	FR-0082954	To purchase four picnic tables to create an outside seating area at the community centre.	£2,712.00	£2,712.00
Glenrinnnes Community Centre	FR-0078921	To purchase a range of catering equipment to support community events in Glenrinnnes, including fridge, freezer, cooking and serving appliances.	£23,859.61	£23,859.61
Glenrinnnes Community Centre	FR-0079448	To fund a feasibility study on options to upgrade Glenrinnnes Community Centre to improve energy efficiency and facilities to create a more sustainable and functional community space.	£15,000.00	£15,000.00
Glenrinnnes Community Centre	FR-0079763	To replace 120 metres of fencing at the Glenrinnnes Community Centre to improve safety and the appearance of the hall grounds from the road.	£7,896.96	£7,896.96
Glenrinnnes Community Centre	FR-0082806	To purchase a generator to provide power to the hall in case of emergency to create a community resilience hub.	£21,108.00	£21,108.00
Glenrinnnes Community Centre	FR-0082950	To insulate the roof spaces to improve energy efficiency, reduce running costs and improve the thermal comfort of the building.	£2,962.32	£2,962.32
Glenrinnnes Community Centre	FR-0082955	To upgrade lighting in the community centre to energy-saving LEDs.	£2,268.00	£2,268.00

Glenrinnes Community Centre	FR-0079566	To fund marquee hire for a "Memories Day" to bring people together to celebrate local heritage.	£2,173.50	£2,173.50
<b>Cross Area</b>				
Speyside Youth Ltd	FR-0081707	To contribute to core staff costs for youth workers for three years to support the Youth Café and other activities for young people in and around Dufftown, to improve opportunities, skills, confidence and mental well-being.	£206,102.00	£67,000.00
Dufftown & District Pipe Band	FR-0083017	To enable the purchase of essential items including raincoats, pipe reeds, moisture control systems and drone reeds.	£3,000.00	£3,000.00
Together for Short Lives	FR-0082975	To contribute towards The Butterfly Fund to support bereaved families in Dufftown, Auchindoun, Glenrinnes, Glenlivet, Inveravon, and Cabrach.	£25,875.00	£1,000.00
1st Dufftown Scout Group	FR-0080305	To fund a week-long summer camp to provide young people with opportunities to develop their practical and social skills.	£7,065.36	£4,874.16
Speyside Swimming Club	FR-0087272	To contribute to Club running costs including pool hire, annual gala medals and insurance to help children participate in swimming.	£1,800.00	£1,800.00
Tomintoul & Glenlivet Development Trust	FR-0086330	To contribute to the cost of building one kilometre of a new all-ability bike trail to improve local facilities and attract visitors to the area.	£23,000.00	£5,000.00

## Finance

### Fund Statement (Summary): 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025

	Cabrach	Dufftown	Glenlivet & Inveravon	Glenrinnnes	Cross Area	Total
Balances brought forward	£222,463.59	£72,969.72	£213,764.37	£464,329.67	£197,678.45	£1,171,205.80
Income						
EDF Renewables	£120,090.35	£120,090.35	£120,090.35	£120,090.35	£120,090.33	£600,451.73
Interest	£8,615.15	£4,471.21	£9,211.84	£13,937.70	£6,818.18	£43,054.08
Repayable Grant	£0.00	£0.00	£6,000.00	£0.00	£0.00	£6,000.00
Expenditure						
Grants awarded - paid	£22,196.01	£36,725.16	£82,830.42	£85,418.74	£113,424.00	£340,594.33
Grants awarded - pending	£0.00	£79,652.00	£91,466.28	£22,500.00	£229,400.00	£423,018.28
Fund expenses	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£51.60	£51.60
Grants returned/cancelled	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£600.00	£0.00	£600.00
<b>Balances carried forward</b>	<b>£328,973.08</b>	<b>£81,154.12</b>	<b>£175,369.86</b>	<b>£490,438.98</b>	<b>-£18,288.64</b>	<b>£1,057,647.40</b>

\* £42,000 of £60,000 repayable grant to be repaid (at £6,000 per year until 2032)

\*\* Negative available balance due to commitments for future years (Speyside Youth 2026-7)



## Panel

The community fund panel met three times in the year in order to make decisions on applications. Panel members continue to give generously of their time and local knowledge to ensure that all grants made reflect the community priorities.

Four new panel members joined during the course of the year – with two new representatives from Dufftown and District Community Association and one new member from Glenrinn Community Centre filling places for those organisations. An open recruitment process was held for the Glenlivet community representative, following the retirement of the previous community member. There remains one panel vacancy to be filled from Cabrach Community Association.

## Publicity

Ongoing promotion of the Fund was achieved through various methods, with a key focus on press and social media channels that have strong local followings. Regular adverts and articles have been placed in the one current community newspaper – the Dufftown Speirins. Thistledown, which focused on Glenlivet and Inveravon is not currently in publication.

Regional press coverage was attempted with press releases sent to the Press and Journal and the Northern Scot. However, nothing was published in these papers in the past year.

The fund has a dedicated page on Foundation Scotland's website which includes information on how to apply as well as details on Fund balances, Panel members, projects funded, case studies and recent news items. During Year Five, the webpage had a total of 647 visits, of which 369 were unique individual visitors (average of 1.7 views per user).

See: <https://www.foundationscotland.org.uk/apply-for-funding/funding-available/dorenell>

## Press coverage:

Date	Publication	Headline
Summer 2024	Dufftown Speirins	Dorenell Fund Delivering Community Projects Plus article on Speyside Youth
Autumn 2024	Dufftown Speirins	Dorenell Fund – Annual Report now online Plus articles on Speyside Youth
Winter 2024	Dufftown Speirins	Dorenell Wind Farm Powering Community Action Plan Priorities Plus articles on Speyside Youth, Outfit Moray and Mortlach Hall
Spring 2025	Dufftown Speirins	Dorenell Wind Farm Powering Community Development Plus articles on the Footpath Project and Mortlach Hall




**DORENELL WIND FARM  
COMMUNITY BENEFIT FUND**

**APPLY**  
Grants up to £30,000

For community projects in  
Cabrach, Dufftown & District,  
Glenlivet & Inveravon or Glenrinnies

**Deadlines**  
31<sup>st</sup> March; 31<sup>st</sup> July; 30<sup>th</sup> November

**Visit**  
[foundationscotland.org.uk](http://foundationscotland.org.uk)

**Contact**  
Marion McDonald  
Tel: 07912 759524

**Email**  
Marion@  
[foundationscotland.org.uk](mailto:marion@foundationscotland.org.uk)

Scottish Charity No: SC022910  
[foundationscotland.org.uk](http://foundationscotland.org.uk)



## Conclusion

Now in its fifth year, the Dorenell Fund is celebrating some significant milestones - over 100 projects supported and more than £2 million invested in local groups. This funding is helping to bring community priorities to life and delivering real, lasting benefits across the fund area.

Following a strategic review in 2024, the fund is now backing even more forward-thinking initiatives, with increased investment in long-term staff roles, essential services, and major capital projects, ensuring a strong foundation for future development and impact.

Although there were no applications from the Cabrach in this reporting period, there has been significant activity in that area with the opening of the distillery, and plans for other community facilities, which are currently in development, are likely to seek strategic support in the coming years.

The demand on the Dufftown sub-fund continues to be higher than in the other, more rural areas. There is an impressive level of community activity in Dufftown, as well as a much higher population, and so there is a significant number of community-led projects seeking support. In the longer term, over the life of the wind farm, the allocation of funds may have to be reviewed, though in the short to medium term all the other communities have ambitious plans of their own which they will hope to realise with strategic awards from the fund to create and improve key infrastructure. Exciting projects, such as the community acquisition of Inveravon Church, are at an early stage and Dorenell funding may be a key part of the development and delivery of such ambitious community projects in all areas in the coming years.

The developmental impact of the funding is being felt in Glenrinnies in particular, where the community centre has progressed in a few years from a financially unstable position with a need for core running costs to make ends meet, to a vibrant local centre with ambitious plans to increase capacity and lead on further local projects.

On the other end of the funding scale, interest has been raised in supporting individuals in the form of energy grants and education and training bursaries. The potential for this will be further investigated in the year ahead as the fund continues to respond to local demand and deliver on the community action plan priorities.



## Appendix 1: Background to the Fund

Dorenell Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund is a charitable fund provided by EDF Renewables, the majority owner of Dorenell Windfarm Limited. The Fund exists for the benefit of residents living in the areas served by the following community associations:

- The Cabrach Community Association
- Dufftown and District Community Association
- Glenlivet and Inveravon Community Association
- Glenrinnes Community Centre

EDF Renewables makes donations into the fund annually, starting in April 2019, when the Wind Farm was fully commissioned. Approximately £447,000 was paid into the Fund in the first year. This is equivalent to £2,525 per Megawatt of installed capacity. The annual donation amount rises each year in line with the Retail Price Index.

Each of the areas served by the four community associations is allocated 20% of the annual donation value to support projects benefiting people in that area. The remaining 20% is available for projects which benefit all four communities.

The fund is open to applications from not-for-profit groups and organisations, statutory bodies, and private businesses that meet the criteria set out on the [EDF Renewables Dorenell Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund webpage](#).

Foundation Scotland is an independent grant-making charity that manages the Fund under contract to EDF Renewables. The Foundation's costs in managing the fund are provided for by EDF Renewables, over and above its annual donation to the fund.

Decisions on grant awards under the main grants programme are made by a Community Panel comprising up to twelve people who live, work or actively volunteer in the area served by the fund. The panel is made up of three members from each of the four areas, two from each community association and a third recruited from the wider community.

Following the launch of the fund in July 2020 and an initial period of remote meetings during the pandemic, the award-making panel can now meet face-to-face and has been running hybrid meetings, giving members the option of joining remotely, if preferred.

Under the main grants programme, the minimum grant award is £1,000 and the maximum is normally £30,000. Applications for more than £30,000 are considered on a case-by-case basis for projects that demonstrate significant community benefit.

Awards can support a wide range of costs and activities including equipment costs, staff or sessional worker costs, consultations and feasibility studies, maintenance or refurbishment of community facilities and so on. Funded projects must be community-led and charitable in nature and must contribute towards the themes and priorities identified in the Dorenell Community Development Plan. Themes from the 2018 - 2023 plan which directed initial grant making are summarised below, with these priorities having been updated in 2024 (see webpage for details).

Theme	Priorities
<b>1: Environment and Heritage</b>	Walking and cycling networks Museum, visitor and heritage centres Preservation and enhancement Village and town enhancement
Theme	Priorities
<b>2: Community and recreational facilities, groups and activities</b>	Community halls Recreation facilities Opportunities and facilities for young people
<b>3: Local economy and tourism</b>	Access to ICT Tourist accommodation and hospitality Tourist attractions, events and promotion Training and enterprise Partnership work between communities and estates
<b>4: Housing and sustainable development</b>	Housing initiatives ICT Low carbon and green initiatives
<b>5: Transport and access to services</b>	Transport (includes gritting where not covered by local authority) Health and care Access to education Childcare Support for vulnerable children and families

The Fund also provides for a micro-grant scheme, under which each of the four community associations can receive an annual amount to then make grants of up to £1,000 to groups or individuals for charitable activities within their area. The community associations report on micro-grants awarded to Foundation Scotland before the next tranche of funding is released to them.

## Appendix 2 : Special Projects Fund

The Special Projects Fund is an additional contribution from EDF Renewables of five annual donations, equivalent to 100% of the donation to Dorenell Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund in Year 1, 75% in Year 2, 50% in Year 3, 25% in Year 4 and a final payment of 12.5 % in Year 5 (2023). The use of the Special Projects Fund is determined by the Dorenell Community Benefit Forum, a group of representatives of the four community associations established to negotiate the community benefit settlement with EDF.

The Forum decided to invest the Fund into a long-term endowment for the benefit of the communities. They selected the Foundation Scotland EQ Impact Portfolio which is managed by EQ Investors. An initial sum of £1,024,377.08 was invested in September 2021, comprising the Special Projects donations plus the interest accrued whilst the monies were held on deposit by Foundation Scotland. The final year of the Special Project Fund payments was not invested and is currently held in cash by Foundation Scotland as requested by the community forum.

The Foundation Scotland EQ Impact Portfolio has a dual mandate; financial returns and social impact. Financial returns are monitored against six comparator indices as well as the Consumer Price Index + 3%. Social Returns are annualised and are shown below along with the carbon emissions associated with the investments. The Fund's carbon footprint is currently 76% lower than that associated with an equivalent sum invested in the FTSE 100 index. Forum members can access all the endowment details, including transactions, fees and returns, live at any time via an online portal.

Over the year to 31st March 2025, global markets experienced greater volatility. Whilst the broader US market delivered modest gains, smaller companies and international markets, where EQ maintains significant exposure, generally lagged behind. Against this backdrop, many fund managers found it challenging to outperform the global indices. EQ's focus on investing in companies that deliver positive social and environmental impact, combined with its bias towards smaller and mid-sized businesses, meant that performance remained behind the major global benchmarks over the period.

During the period EQ have reassessed a number of the funds held. This led to a reduction from 14 to 10 funds in our portfolio and reorientating towards sustainably labelled funds. Despite this, performance has been disappointing. Foundation Scotland is investing for the longer term, and the emphasis is on a three-to-seven-year horizon when assessing performance. However, the significant underperformance of the FSEQIP since its inception triggered the Board to request a review of EQ's performance. This review will be completed by July, and the findings communicated to stakeholders.

Notwithstanding the financial performance, the longer-term challenges of climate change and issues that arise from rapid AI adoption, both positive and negative, are where the EQ portfolios are focused. These issues are not going away, but this does not always synchronise with movements in markets, particularly when, for example, there is a rise in the oil price as the portfolios are not exposed to fossil fuels. However, investing in companies that are on the right side of history and look after their shareholders should be beneficial over time.

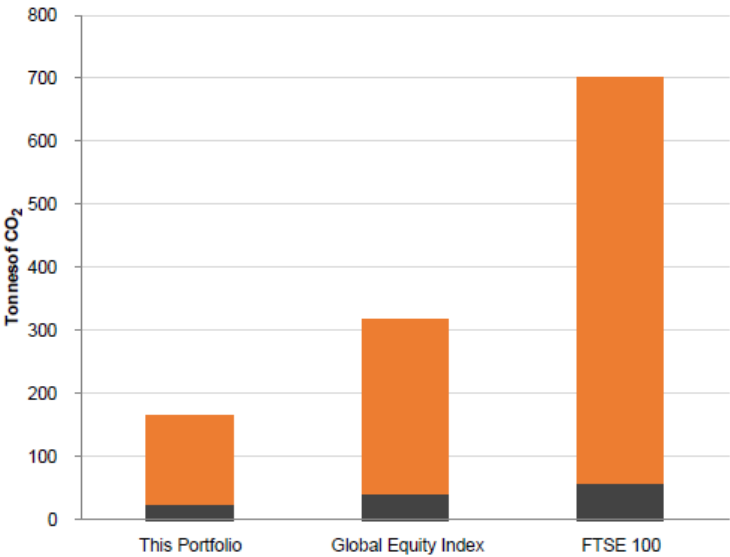
### Special Projects Fund Statement

<b>Opening Balance on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024</b>	<b>£1,113,701.97</b>
Contributions	£0.00
Withdrawals	(£0.00)
Investment Income	£2,093.93
Foundation Scotland Fees	(£0.00)
EQ Fees	(£3,946.78)
Transaction Expenses	(£0.00)
Capital Growth / (Contraction)	(£29,374.52)
<b>Closing Value on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025</b>	<b>£1,082,474.59</b>

£75,228.58 is held in cash at Foundation Scotland, as requested, and is not included in the figures above. The total value of the Fund is therefore £1,157,703.17.

## Social and Environmental Impact of the Special Project Fund

### Carbon Emissions



The carbon footprint of your portfolio is: 76.36% lower than the FTSE 100 index

■ Direct Scope [Scope 1 & 2]  
■ Indirect Scope [Scope 3]

*\*Scope 1 & 2 represents direct emissions as well as indirect emissions from electricity usage, Scope 3 represents other indirect generation*

That's equivalent to...

- 🚗 taking 116 passenger cars off the road or
- 🏠 saving 132 UK household's total energy use or
- 🛢️ preventing 60 thousand gallons of gasoline from being burned



# Positive Impact

Over the last year this portfolio would have generated the following positive impact:

 <p>Avoided <b>193 tonnes</b> of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. Equivalent to taking <b>42 car(s)</b> off the road</p>	 <p>Recycled <b>27 tonnes</b> of waste Equivalent to <b>28 households'</b> annual waste</p>	 <p>Generated <b>112 MWh</b> of renewable energy Equivalent to <b>41 households'</b> annual usage</p>
 <p>Installed <b>6.5 KW</b> of renewable energy capacity Enough wind to supply <b>2 home(s)</b></p>	 <p>Provided <b>2.6m litres</b> of clean water Equivalent to <b>21 households'</b> annual usage</p>	 <p>Generated <b>9.1m litres</b> of renewable energy Equivalent to <b>71 households'</b> annual usage</p>
 <p>Treated <b>115 patients</b></p>	 <p>Made <b>2,091</b> medical interventions covering diagnostics, screens and treatments</p>	 <p>Delivered <b>8k</b> hours of school, further and adult education</p>
 <p>Reached <b>93</b> people with preventative healthcare</p>	 <p>Provided <b>22</b> people in developing markets access to financial services</p>	 <p>Given <b>9</b> people in developing markets access to mobile networks</p>

## For further information please contact:

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